

# Mississippi

## LIBRARY NEWS

Volume 21, No. 3

September, 1957

Library Science

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# Mississippi Library News

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SEPTEMBER, 1957

VOLUME 21,

No. 3

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Issued Quarterly

By

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY  
COMMISSION

And

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION

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## OUR COVER

Mrs. Gretchen Schenk and "pupils" pose  
for a picture during the Midsouth Public  
Library Workshop held at the University.

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## *Who's Who At The Clarksdale Convention*

Robert Bruce Weirick

Robert Bruce Weirick is one of the great teachers of the University of Illinois who has inspired students for several decades. As a teacher of creative writing, the short story, Shakespeare, and modern poetry he has earned for himself the mark of distinction. Part of his tremendous success at least may be attributed to his interest in people, his tolerance, his keen sense of humor, and his great enthusiasm.

Dr. Weirick's own account of his early life makes good reading:

"Born June 19, 1887 Pueblo, Colorado. Orphaned at 13. Waited tables; shot furnaces, portered in a saloon, worked in the Steel Mills (at 12 and 1/2 cents an hour 12 hours a day, 7 days a week and every other week a 24 hour shift) and got to Colorado College with \$22.65. There I prospered with a good job and an A.B. 1911. The Colorado Springs people had money and took a sort of pride in furthering the ambitions of the ambitious. God bless them. Of that institution and of those people I can not say too much. From Pueblo to Colorado Springs is

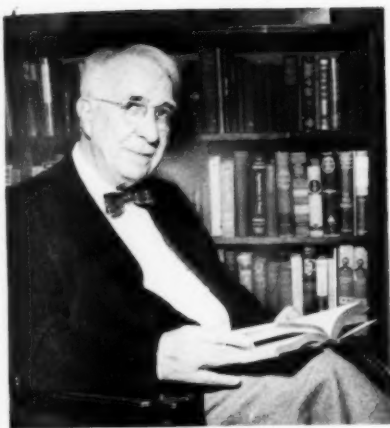
only 45 miles: but "hard is the way and long that out of hell leads up to light". Earl Bryson "Ye Olde Counselor" for Halsey Stuart, with \$75.00 and Edith Douglas the famous Bulgarian missionary, with \$125.00, and I went up together; sat on a bench and looked at Pikes Peak, its blues and reds; and before we had even registered, decided we had got out of hell — that steel town whose motto is THE PITTSBURGH OF THE WEST: WATCH OUR SMOKE — and by some miracle had landed in you-know-where. We had. None of us ever returned for more than an hour or two to Pueblo. Oh 'well, that was a long time ago, and America is quite a different place now from what it was then."

Dr. Weirick received a degree from Colorado College, his master's from Harvard, and his doctor's from Illinois. Since coming to Illinois as a teacher in 1915, he has done much to further the work of the Illinois Poetry Society. He was once awarded Sigma Delta Chi's Brown Derby for his importance as a University of Illinois teacher.

Of his teaching career at Illinois, Dr. Wei-

COME TO CLARKSDALE! Mississippi Library Association convention, with headquarters at Alcazar Hotel, October 24-26.





**ROBERT BRUCE WEIRICK**

rick has this to say:

"They couldn't get rid of me, and I lingered on for 40 years of teaching, some writing, and far more gratitude and honors than I — or any other man deserved. I fear I can not deny that they liked me. . . .God knows why. Among other pleasures was a long acquaintance and friendship with Carl Sandburg. I encouraged him to sell us his library and had a good deal with pushing it through. Our Sandburg-Lincoln Room when we get it built, will be something you-all will want to see. It is in progress."

Although Dr. Weirick insists that "a teacher's publications ARE his students," he is the author of articles and reviews too numerous to mention; of *From Whitman to Sandburg in American Poetry*; *Acting and Play Production*; and the editor of a collection of *Illini Poetry*.

A special treat is in store for those conferees who attend Friday night's banquet to hear Dr. Weirick. He will also be on the program at the college library breakfast.

## Helen T. Geer

Consultant for the school library workshop on Saturday morning doesn't need to be introduced to most of us. Helen T. Geer, Director of The Library Mart, and one time ALA librarian, is "one of ours."

Miss Geer received a degree from the University of Illinois and her master's from Columbia University.

She has done public, college, and special library work in New York and Chicago. At one time she edited H. W. Wilson's *Bibliographical Index*. For nine years she was Headquarters Librarian at ALA. In July, 1956, she left ALA to begin the Library Mart.

The Library Mart is a service to librarians and manufacturers. Through it, Miss Geer exhibits and demonstrates at conventions, workshops, and library schools equipment and supplies from a number of manufacturers.

Miss Geer is the author of *Charging Systems*, which was published by ALA in 1955.



**HELEN T. GEER**

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE



MARY LOVE

Professional people are always concerned with improvements in their own particular fields. It seems to me that librarians have several items of progress to note now in the library field. It is interesting to think about these recent activities and to be proud of the interest in libraries that these indicate. Let's take a look.

The new standards for public libraries, **Public Library Service**, has recently been published. The school library standards are being revised by ALA, and we hope this publication date will not be too far off. The Southern Association is setting up standards for elementary schools. In these standards quite a bit of emphasis is put on the central library in the elementary school. (Incidentally, this is the first region to set up standards for elementary schools.) The U. S. Office of Education is making a study

of the status of the school librarian. The Southern States Work Conference, held at Daytona Beach, Florida, has started a three year study on school libraries, grades one through twelve. The Mississippi Accrediting Commission is reviewing its school library standards. The Mississippi Library Commission has had a conference on book selection, the result of which is a basic book collection for public libraries now being compiled. This agency also sponsored a two-week workshop at the University for public librarians which was highly successful.

National Library Week in March, 1958, will be the culmination of a year's program to focus attention on libraries on a nationwide basis.

The aid given to us this year by the Library Services Act helps greatly in our public library development.

Many more items of this nature could be listed here, I am sure, but this is enough to show the increasing interest in libraries at this time. I am putting it mildly when I say that all of these things are very nice.

# MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Alcazar Hotel, Clarksdale

October 24-26, 1957

(A Skeleton Outline of the Program)

Thursday, October 24

10:00 - 12:00	Workshop for public librarians
12:00 - 2:00	Visit exhibits
2:00 - 4:00	Workshop for public librarians
4:00 - 5:00	Visit exhibits
7:30 - 9:00	Introduction of exhibitors by student library assistants

Friday, October 25

8:30 - 10:00	Visit exhibits
10:00 - 12:00	Business meeting, with program devoted to National Library Week
12:30 - 2:00	Trustees luncheon
2:30 - 4:30	Trustees Section meeting School Library Section business meeting
3:00 - 5:00	Tour of Clarksdale and vicinity
7:30 - 9:30	Banquet, with Dr. Bruce Weirick, University of Illinois as speaker

Saturday, October 26

8:30 - 9:30	College Library Section breakfast, Dr. Bruce Weirick, speaker
9:30 - 3:00	Workshop for school librarians Helen Geer, consultant
11:00 - 1:00	Special Library Section luncheon. Helen E. Loftus, speaker
4:00 -	Executive Board meeting

NOTE: If you do not receive your pre-registration blank, contact Mrs. Annette Wilder, 902 West Pine Street, Hattiesburg. She will be the Tickets and Registration chairman for the convention.

## MLA Committees

President Mary Love has announced the following committees:

### ADULT EDUCATION

Jeanne Broach  
Martha Couty  
Dorothy Hayes  
Mrs. Eugenia Hudson  
Lucile Miller  
Maria Person  
Mrs. Louise Trevillion  
Mrs. C. C. Clark, Chairman

### AWARDS

Mrs. Martha Lang  
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Martha Howard, Chairman

### CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

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Bob Wood, Chairman

### FEDERAL RELATIONS

Mrs. Cecil Jennings, Chairman

### LEGISLATIVE

Mrs. Walker Jones, Chairman

### MEMBERSHIP

Alberta Edmondson, Chairman

### NOMINATING

Mrs. W. H. Greer  
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### PUBLICITY

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Mrs. Barbara Cox, Chairman

### RECRUITING

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Dan Kelly, Chairman

### STANDARDS AND PLANNING

Mrs. Lura G. Currier, Chairman

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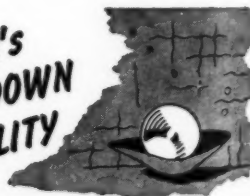
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## Library Commission

### Data on the Director

It's still news that Director Lura G. Currier was elected vice-president and president-elect of the Public Libraries Division of the American Library Association.

Acting as a consultant on library contracts and bookmobile operation at the August Southern Public Library Workshop sponsored by Florida State University and Florida State Library was "business as usual" for MLC's director.

October will find Lura Currier speaking to the banquet session of the Indiana Library Association on "Collusion of the Conjunctions; or, The If's, And's, and But's of Library Development."

### We Come and Go

It is with regret that the staff of the Library Commission accepts the departure of Norma and Bob Wood for East Chicago, Indiana. Our best wishes for happiness in your new home and your new positions!

Dorolyn Matthews joined the field staff of MLC in June. Dorolyn is a library science graduate of Mississippi Southern College. More about Dorolyn will appear in a later issue.

Brigitte Kenney left the staff in September to enter library school at the University of Chicago. Her friends are as pleased as she is.

The summer "help" has departed, each to her winter quarters. Mary Love and Alberta Edmondson are toiling with Jackson's elementary school libraries. Verlie

### Regional Librarians Meet

Directors of Mississippi's seven multi-county libraries were invited to meet at the Library Commission August 22-23 for the purpose of discussing problems common to regional libraries. It was the first such meeting to be held.

Detailed and lively discussion took place and it is hoped that the meeting at least laid the groundwork for ironing out some of the problems facing the participating librarians.

Present at the meeting were Jeanne Broach, Meridian-Neshoba Libraries; Lucile Miller, Tombigbee Regional Library; Mrs. Iola Magee, Lincoln-Lawrence Regional Library; J. W. Hudspeth, First Regional Library; Mrs. Elizabeth Holcomb, Lee-Itawamba Libraries; Charles Williams, Capital Area Regional Library, Mrs. Augusta Richardson of the Northeast Regional Library was unable to attend.

Also participating in the meeting were members of the Commission's Board of Commissioners and members of the staff.

### Report on Reading Clubs

Reports on summer reading clubs and especially on the Smokey Bear reading clubs have just begun to be sent in. Since there is so little to report at this time, no report of it will be made in this issue.

Duncan has gone to Beaumont, Texas, to a high school library position. Sandra Risher is back at Southern.

# From the Desk of the Director



It is popular to say — and a temptation to believe — “We have no problems which money would not solve.” A glance at the mountains of adding machine tape on the director’s desk would lend support to the

theory that money creates some problems while it solves others.

It’s budget making time again.

With the addition of the third dimension through the Library Services Act, this summer finds us adding, subtracting and dividing on three levels: local, state, and national. (At this point let it be clearly stated for the records that no comment about budget making is ever to be interpreted as any complaint against any amount of money from anywhere at any time!)

**Local support.** In keeping with our philosophy that the American public library is a distinctively local institution which can and should remain bedrocked in local support and control, most of the staff’s “fiscal” activities have been directed toward helping counties to secure more nearly adequate support for themselves through their own appropriating authorities. Summer 1957 finds citizens in eleven counties hard at work to secure tax funds for their public libraries. If the campaigns are successful, it will mean that five of them shall have public library service for the very first time. In six of them the results will be regional participation and a stepped-up countywide program.

**The state budget.** State law requires that each agency prepare a budget request in the summer of 1957 to cover its needs for the period from July 1, 1958 through June 30, 1960. The most practical piece of equipment would have been a crystal ball. There being none on hand, the Board of Commissioners valiantly sharpened pencils and went to work to try to determine what our needs would be in light of current developments and future hopes. Their final decision was to request a biennial appropriation of \$192,000, which is the same amount that was appropriated for 1956-58, with special attention to the requirements in matching funds under the Library Services Act. A complete text of the Library Commission’s statement to the Budget Commission will explain the questions involved in the state’s appropriation in relation to the funds from the Library Services Act:

To the Budget Commission —

“The most important consideration in this budget is the change in the Library Commission’s financial status made by the Federal Library Services Act.

Two factors are especially important:

1. IF the Library Commission’s budget is cut from the 1956-58 appropriation the state will not be eligible for ANY funds at all.

2. The Library Services Act is terminal with authorization for FIVE years only. No further funds will be available after July, 1961. It is designed only for stimulation and for help in securing basic capital outlay. The complete state autonomy under the Act makes it particularly adaptable to such purposes.

Year	Amount Appropriated (or authorized) by Congress	Mississippi's share	Matching Funds Required	Status of State's funds
1956-57	\$2,050,000	\$40,000	\$20,606	1
1957-58	5,000,000	122,720	63,219	1
1958-59	Maximum that can be appropriated: \$7,500,000	193,000	99,456	2
1956-60	Maximum possibility: \$7,500,000	193,000	99,456	2

<sup>1</sup> The portion of the Commission's current budget which may be used for matching is \$24,656 each year being able to match funds.

<sup>2</sup> With the same appropriation for 1958-60 as for 1956-58, the Commission would lack enough to match these funds.

This chart indicates that IN THE EVENT Congress does appropriate the full amount authorized for this program the Library Commission would need an additional \$24,656 each of the two years of the 1958-60 biennium, or a total of \$49,312, to be able to secure the full Federal funds.

Since this help from the Federal Government more than doubles the all too meager funds available for library purposes and since it is being carefully spent in such a way as to have lasting effect upon the educational standards of the state, the Library Commission respectfully requests that the Budget Commission recommend to the Legislature that provisional terms be included in the Appropriation to this agency that would enable it to have the added \$49,312.-00 to match Federal funds PROVIDED:

1. Congress does make the full authorized appropriation in fiscal '59 and '60 and
2. There is surplus in the state treasury sufficient to provide these added funds at the time that Congress makes the full amount available to Mississippi."

**The federal money.** Mississippi received \$40,000 from the Library Services Act for the period from January 1, 1957 through June 30, 1957. The state is scheduled to receive \$122,720 for the period from July 1, 1957 through June 30, 1958. These questions might well be asked in connection with these two amounts: What tangible results can we see from the first \$40,000? What are the plans for spending the \$122,720?

With the initial grant of \$40,000 the Library Commission and the local libraries, working together:

**SEPTEMBER, 1957**

1. Provided services for 38,047 people who had never had a public library
2. Assisted three counties to take their first step toward full public library service
3. Hired a summer working crew to do technical work in seven local libraries
4. Established one new regional library; added a county to an already existing regional library
5. Assisted forty persons working in libraries to attend a two weeks' graduate training course at the University of Mississippi with Gretchen Schenk as instructor
6. Held a book selection conference where professional librarians from over the entire state set up minimum reference collections for a variety of types of libraries
7. Purchased needed equipment for the Library Commission, including machines that will enable the Commission to give additional services to the public libraries in the state.

And now what of fiscal '58? With the \$122,720 allotted to Mississippi by the Library Services Act for this current year, plus the state's matching funds of \$63,219, the Library Commission plans to:

1. Establish two new regional libraries embracing eight counties, provided these counties levy their own local tax millage and pool their resources and energies
2. Add two new counties to an already existing region, provided the two counties will each levy a one mill tax
3. Purchase a new bookmobile to use in counties that wish to have bookmobile service and make provisions for such but are, as yet, still unable to secure a vehicle of their own.



4. Add substantially to the book collection of the Library Commission, which has operated below minimum requirements for the past two years in order to maintain its 25% expenditure for direct state aid

5. Enlarge the in-service training program that was started in the summer of 1957 through more such courses and through other courses spread geographically throughout the state

6. Aid six counties in taking their very first steps toward any kind of public library service by means of materials and technical guidance

7. Give geographical spread to the field staff of the Library Commission by employing two area workers — one in the northern section of the state and one in the southern section. This will economize on travel expenses and time, as well as give

more ready help to libraries who are now engaged in processing their book collections and revitalizing their libraries

8. Render state aid to already established regions on the principle of graduated help with each successive year's aid diminishing until local areas become self-supporting except for small permanent grants to maintain some equalization

9. Explore the possibilities of centralized processing, coordinated buying and reference referrals in three sections of the state, with local libraries working together on these phases of library service. This is a long range project and the Commission proposes only to make analyses and studies to see to what extent local libraries believe it to be profitable and to determine what directions such cooperative measures should take.

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## Who Does What At The Library Commission

Kay Cooley

Associate Director

### *Reference and Acquisitions*



MARTHA COUTY

(Note: This is the fourth in a series of five articles to describe the work of the Library Commission by department and to introduce the persons who work in each department.)

Reference and acquisitions covers a multitude of . . . well, a multitude. It covers more activities than meet the eye — at least, at MLC it does.

To name a few of the responsibilities of this department, one might begin by saying that here is a three-in-one deal.

Book selection for the Commission is done by this department. It also does the order work for books selected. This, you might say, constitutes the "acquisitions" part of the department. There is also the matter of answering reference questions and filling requests for books and other materials.

Chief of the Reference and Acquisitions Department is Martha Couty, who has seen the Library Commission grow from a collection of 6,000 books to its present holdings of nearly 80,000 volumes.

Probably no one other person has a better overall picture of the things Mississippi's citizens want to know than Martha Couty. Each day's mail brings requests for specific information, for suggestions of what to read, for bibliographies on various subjects, for help with term papers and club papers. These calls come from libraries, individuals, clubs, and schools. It is this department which answers these requests.

Whether the Commission's book budget is almost nonexistent or relatively generous, it is Chief Couty's responsibility to be concerned with what books are bought and to order them.

Assisting in the Reference and Acquisitions Department is Brigitte Kenney (Mrs. Higdon Kenney) who also doubles in other departments.

Brigitte came to the Library Commission in 1955, after having worked in the Tombigbee Regional Library and in Europe. In addition to her duties in this department, she has worked with the library projects at Columbia Training School, Oakley Training School, and the Mississippi School for the Deaf. She has also worked at great length with the statewide Smokey Bear summer reading club program. These latter activities could be considered as sort of leading a double life.

The specialized service to the personnel of the Department of Public Welfare (a cooperative undertaking of the Commission and the Department) is handled by Jean Gunter.

Jean answers requests for these employees, makes subject bibliographies and analytics for their use, orientates new personnel in library procedures. In short, she is the Welfare Librarian.

Note: Brigitte Kenney has left the Commission staff to enter library school at the University of Chicago.



BRIGITTE KENNEY



JEAN GUNTER

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**Observations of A College Librarian Concerning  
The Kansas City ALA Conference**

Forrest Palmer

Mississippi State College

The principal speaker at the ACRL meeting was Father Paul C. Reinert, S. J., President of St. Louis University, and a member of the President's Commission on Education Beyond High School. His talk was in the nature of a report to the assembled librarians on what might be expected in higher education during the next few years. Naturally, we all look forward, with some fear, to the greatly increased numbers of students, but it is to be doubted that few realize the elaborateness and diversity of the plans being made by the colleges and various levels of government in preparation for this flood.

The topic of interest to the University Libraries Section of ACRL in their meeting was the matter of faculty rank and academic status for college and university library staffs. Not only were the pros and cons of the topic discussed, but several "how-to-dos" were suggested. One might expect such an excellent meeting from such speakers as Robert Muller of the University of Michigan, Lewis Branscomb of Ohio State University, Arthur McAnally of the University of Oklahoma, and Robert Downs of the University of Illinois.

While other meetings would certainly hold the attention of college librarians, all of those in attendance seemed to be unanimous in their pleasure with two speakers, namely ex-President Truman with his reminiscences and description of the new Truman Library, and Lura Currier with her "I dreamed" presentation.

While the writer has had the opportunity to attend only a few ALA Conferences, it seems that the recent one held at Kansas City, Mo. was of a superior nature. The meetings were well planned, were not too lengthy, and were held in locations not too distant from the hotels. The exhibits were attractive, informative, and conveniently located. The tours were well selected. The weather was comfortable. In short, even though the throes of reorganization and relocation of the headquarters are still with the ALA, much of the conference was still concerned with items of interest to all.

To the college librarians in attendance, there were several meetings and tours of special note. Certainly high on the list would be the visit to the Linda Hall Library of Science, located near the University of Kansas City, but operated independently of any formal connection with an educational institution. One could hardly conceive of such a collection of nearly 200,000 volumes and nearly 6,000 serial titles in current receipt having been built up during the past 10 years.

The ACRL tour to the University of Kansas campus at Lawrence was well planned by Mr. Robert Vosper and his staff and afforded a good view of a moderate-sized campus having a well-developed library system. Despite handicaps in building arrangement and location, the system seems to be providing that campus community with the materials and services that are needed.

## COLLEGE LIBRARY STATISTICS IN MISSISSIPPI, 1956-57

Compiled by Forrest C. Palmer, Mississippi State College

## EXPENDITURES (Dollars Only)

Institution	Fiscal Year Ending	Total		Total No. of Staff Members	Staff Salaries	Student Wages	Books, Periodicals, Binding Etc.	Other Operating Expend.	Total Operating Expend.
		On-campus Enrollment Fall 1956	Total No. of Volumes						
Blue Mountain College	August 1957	290	21,400	1	2,498	1,878	2,002	156	7,171
Copiah-Lincoln Jr. College	June 30, 1957	390	13,060	1	3,189	450	1,611	60	3,750
Delta State College	June 30, 1957	527	40,079	4	16,589	2,058	4,849	784	26,732
East Central Jr. College	June 30, 1957	899	8,423	5	3,269	168	1,229	—	4,855
East Miss. Junior College		235	6,300	5	2,840	90	1,461	45	4,356
Itawamba Jr. College	June 30, 1957	450	7,309	3*	3,000	620	1,117	136	4,973
Jones County Jr. College	June 30, 1957	304	17,365	1*	4,479	95	1,104	18	5,782
Meridian Municipal Jr. College	June 1, 1957	1,097	17,345	3	8,800	112	2,333	445	11,965
Millsaps College	June 30, 1957	891	39,779	4	14,100	890	4,556	911	30,040
Mississippi College	July 1957	—7	57,251	4	13,861	4,461	10,528	991	33,569

Mississippi College	July 1957	—7	57,251	4	13,861	4,461	10,528	991	3,746	33,589
Mississippi State College June 30, 1957	4,117	189,171	18	49,746	8,433	36,433	9,977	4,509	109,098	
Miss. State College for Women June 30, 1957	1,130	101,598 <sup>6</sup>	4½	20,376	1,470	6,136	1,932	1,047	30,962	
Mississippi Southern College June 30, 1957	3,414	83,158	8	26,120	7,298	26,038	2,147	2,470	64,074	
Southwest Miss. Jr. College June 30, 1957	248	6,100	1	3,200	420	1,050	16	70	4,740	
Sunflower Jr. College June 30, 1957	306	8,432	1	3,437	858	797	0	269	5,362	
University of Mississippi <sup>2</sup> June 30, 1957	2,454	200,000 <sup>3</sup>	20	63,389	10,364	27,964	7,000	3,526	112,245	
William Carey College Sept. 1956	377	15,735	1	—7	—7	5,235	525	250	—7	
Wood Jr. College May 31, 1957	100 <sup>3</sup>	—7	2	—7	—7	—7	0	—7	—7	

<sup>1</sup> Includes binding

<sup>2</sup> Excludes Law Library and Rowland Medical Library

<sup>3</sup> Approximate

<sup>4</sup> Plus part time help

<sup>5</sup> Includes student assistants

<sup>6</sup> Includes Dem. School

<sup>7</sup> Not reported



Snuffy Smith blown up with the opaque projector and inked in black. Snuffy lends himself very well to bulletin boards. . . . we have several, all rear views, that are interesting to put up all at one time on the four boards. . . . only cost here five cent paper and time in inking.

#### NOT LATE AT MISSISSIPPI STATE Margarete Peebles IN SEASON

Keeping four very large bulletin boards up to date and **IN SEASON** is a good size problem and a big chunk of work for the Circulation Department at Mississippi State College. The greatest difficulty is that we have no money and that we have, if we had money, no place in town to really buy all the wonder working products we'd like to have. Our supplies which are mostly tempera colors, poster paper, bits of odd materials, and our opaque projector for enlarging pictures afford us satisfactory bulletin board covers. Of course, begging from store displays is a very healthy way to secure most attractive displays.

Sometimes, simplicity is as important as expense. A display that is easy to put together is most helpful in the rush of term papers or in the endless details of the day's work. The pictures shown here are easy makings and attractive when Mitten letters are added. . . .

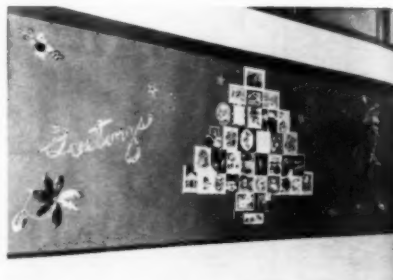
#### Christmas Comes but Once a Year

Mitchell Memorial Library at Mississippi State started planning in June for Christmas 1957.

At the suggestion of the **Wilson Library Bulletin** public libraries in foreign countries were written for typical Christmas cards to



Dish cut from poster paper, colored with chalk crayon. Turkeys from dime store.



Simple, attractive, inexpensive to make. Board covered with blue paper, "greetings" cut from poster paper and covered with glitter, poinsettia, and ornaments from dime store. Christmas cards, one of each staff member, arranged in shape of Christmas tree. These were old cards. Each has the name of a staff member on it. . . .

place on display when the Christmas Season comes around. Each mail delivery, however, brings us a letter in a different language. We had not anticipated this and find that we cannot pin anyone down to reading our incoming mail. It seems that whatever the language the letter is written in it is not the language that was studied. . . .

Christmas, nevertheless, is a time to plan ahead. We hope that our efforts as of last year will be helpful to you in thinking about bulletin board displays for 1957.

## Public Libraries

### The Lincoln-Lawrence Regional Library

Once there were two little libraries — the Lincoln County Public Library and the Lawrence County Public Library. This is a story of the two libraries when they operated separately and of how they came to operate as one unit.

#### Lincoln County Public Library

Organized in October, 1906, the Brookhaven Public Library was housed in a room above the Brookhaven Bank & Trust Co., served by a volunteer librarian, and financed by \$2.00 memberships. Its first books were those donated by the then defunct Y.M.C.A.

The popularity of the library movement was made evident by a growth which necessitated larger quarters. In 1910 these were provided in the new City Hall with an appropriation by the city for its maintenance and the librarian's salary. Shelving and furniture were secured by giving silver teas and engaging in other special projects.

During the 43 years as a subscription library, the officers and committees of the Library Association worked devotedly and untiringly in book selection, book weeding, subscription drives, tag days, silver teas and other projects. Memberships were available to any white resident in the county and children were permitted to use the library free of charge.

In January, 1949, the Brookhaven Public Library became the Lincoln County Public Library, supported by the county and the city. The Mississippi Library Commission made it first bookmobile trip to Lincoln

County at that time and continued to serve the county for the next three years. In January, 1952, citizens of Lincoln County were the proud possessors of their own bookmobile purchased by the Board of Supervisors. During the same year the Library Board made the decision to open Gullett Branch for Negroes. To get that project under way help was solicited from the Mississippi Library Commission and civic clubs.

During the fifty years since the organization of the library, many friends have made donations of money, books, memorial gifts, and furnishings. One of the woman's clubs continues to present an annual gift of \$50.00.

Memberships to the library while it was still a subscription library varied from a low of 76 to as many as 272, with resultant budget problems.

Book inventory figures for ten year intervals indicate substantial growth after securing support by tax levy:

1907 — 456 books	
1916 — 1415	"
1927 — 4741	"
1936 — 7495	"
1946 — 8040	"
1956 — 15977	" (Including Gullett Branch collection)

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#### Lawrence County Public Library

With tax support from the County and the appointment of a library board by the supervisors, the Lawrence County Public Library was organized in October, 1953, following a successful three months' demonstration of countywide library service by the Mississippi Library Commission at the request of a group of citizens interested in library development. Housed in quarters donated by one of Monticello's progressive businessmen, with books borrowed from the Mississippi Library Commission, and with friends of the library volunteering their services, the demonstration continued until tax money was available.

In January, 1954, a part-time librarian was employed who took books in her car each month to all the white schools and to five library stations. The library at Monticello was open two afternoons each week.

Civic clubs aided in providing funds for decorating the library quarters, adding shelving, fans, chairs, and an assistant for the summer reading club and story hour. Inter-

ested patrons have donated books and memorial gifts.

The rapid growth of the library has exceeded the hopes of its promoters and now presents the problem of securing larger quarters.

Following are figures indicating the book stock during the first three years:

1954 - 1098 books

1955 - 2264 "

1956 - 3206 "

Two-thirds of the book inventory represent children's books, nearly all of them preboud. Only essential equipment was purchased and members of the library board continued to volunteer their services in order to have from 60%-80% of the budget available for book purchase during 1954-56.

From January to August, 1956, the Mississippi Library Commission provided a bookmobile by which the librarian with an assistant served the schools and the rural communities in the county during one week each month. This service was the temporary realization of a goal the Library Board had worked for.



Bookmobile service to rural communities and schools a vital part of this system. A group of school children with Mrs. Dorothy Cotten, bookmobile clerical asst., (rear left) Mrs. Pauline Vaughn, bokmobile librarian, (rear right) and Mrs. Iola Magee, head librarian.





Lincoln-Lawrence Regional Library Board. Seated, Mrs. Roy King, secretary; Mr. V. D. Youngblood, chairman; Mrs. J. F. Vernon, vice-chairman. Standing, Mr. Tom Moak and Mr. E. W. Clinton.

#### Lincoln-Lawrence Regional Library

Becoming part of a multi-county system is one of the answers to the problems confronting small and/or poor counties desiring good library service. From the time of its organization, the Lawrence County Public Library looked to the time when such a system would be organized in this area.

The Library Board of the well-established Lincoln County Public Library, seeing the advantages of the larger unit of service and with the vision and willingness to take the leadership in promoting more and better library service, made the decision to invite the Lawrence County Public Library to contract with them. Both counties benefited by a grant from the Mississippi Library Commission with the signing of this contract.

The two-county library system, now a year old, has found the merger advantageous. Now patrons in both counties have access to a stock of over 22,000 books; duplication of much work has been eliminated; increased library hours and staff have improved services; greater use of the bookmobile brings greater returns from that investment.

The bookmobile plays a very vital part in this rural area, traveling about 625 miles each month serving during the school year 17 white and 12 negro schools, making 17 community stops and 31 individual stops. In the summer there are 34 community stops and 109 individual stops in addition to the ten deposits which are served throughout the year. Bookmobile circulation represents nearly 50% of the total circulation of the system.

Improvements have been made at headquarters in Brookhaven as well as at the two branches. Redecorating, additional new shelving, charging desks, card catalog cabinets, and a large number of new books have brought the expressed approval of library patrons.

Children's summer reading programs, story hour for pre-schoolers, cooperating with the Junior League in book service to the hospital, assisting patrons in securing Talking Books have been the major activities of the library system.

The greatest need at the present throughout the system is enlarged quarters for both headquarters and the branches.

## Midsouth Public Library Workshop

School days have left more than the usual happy memories with thirty-odd Mississippi public library workers. Such popularity must be deserved — by someone!

In the opinion of the people who participated in the Midsouth Public Library Workshop at the University of Mississippi, July 1-13, that that someone is Mrs. Gretchen Schenk, instructor and consultant.

The workshop was an accelerated library science course offered by the University, with graduate credit for those who could qualify. The Library Commission, through the use of federal funds received under the Library Services Act, was able to cooperate with the University and the local libraries by offering financial and personnel assistance to libraries wanting to send their employees to the University.

A survey course in public libraries, the workshop covered the ABC's of practical public librarianship. A field trip to the Carnegie Public Library in Clarksdale gave the participants an opportunity to see an up-to-date library in operation. Exams and "graduation" were in order at the conclusion of the course.

There seemed to be very few "sour notes" in the workshop setup, only a few comments that it wasn't long enough; that books included were too hard come by; that preliminary instructions were inadequate, and the like.

Comments on the positive side were many and enthusiastic. Here are a few of them:

Iola Magee, Brookhaven: "The Mid-South Workshop at University was practical, informative, inspirational, entertaining, and exhausting! As pleasant and profitable a two-weeks as I have spent."

Bess Hawken, Sardis and Batesville: "Its practical value was the dominant feature. I

only wish there had been more time for detailed study and discussion."

Florence Ford, Macon: "One of the special treats of this Workshop was the fellowship with other librarians."

Betty Ferrer, Pascagoula: "In my opinion, the workshop was a complete success, and I believe that its success can be attributed mainly to our instructor, Mrs. Gretchen Schenk. Besides being highly capable, she was extremely personable and it was a joy to be associated with her."

Grace McMillan, Wesson: "It was an opportunity of a lifetime!"

Other participants feel like this about their experience at "summer school":

Mrs. C. G. Gates, Picayune: "After working with the class I feel like a member of a special group with the same interests and problems. I have a sense of belonging."

Georgie McIntyre, Durant: "I am so new in library work that the whole thing was a revelation to me and my first impulse upon arriving home was to sweep my entire method of operation at the library here out the back door and start over. In fact, I think I should discard everything but the books and some of them would be good riddance, I think."

Mrs. T. V. Beauchamp, Canton: "Mrs. Schenk is a teacher that defies description—as I look back on the hours she stood and talked to us without seeming to tire I realize she is a genius. Being able to hold the individual attention of the fifty women and two men in the class for such long periods proved her greatness, also."

Many of the people who attended the Midsouth Public Library Workshop have not commented "for publication," but to a librarian they all agree that more of the same is a **must**.

### An Outline for the Teacher

Jeanne Broach has taken what appears to be a step forward in the public library's cooperation with elementary teachers.

During the past summer, Meridian elementary teachers had a workshop in which they prepared a curriculum outline for use in the various schools.

The Meridian Public Library prepared for the language arts teachers an outline about the use of the public library and what it can do to help them in their work.

It began with a general sort of statement about the public library's function, purpose, book collection, and services. Following the statement was a list of specific things the public library could do for the teachers, the pupils, and the parents.

Getting in touch with individual teachers has always been a problem for the Meridian Public Library, says Jeanne Broach, "because most of them do not realize the difference in what they can count on from us and what they would find in a school library and we feel that this is probably a step forward."

### Books for Business

"Workers Get the Word" is the title of an article in the August, 1957, issue of *Mississippi Magic* which describes the role of the public library in Mississippi's expanding economy.

### In Case You are Wondering

There are two specific reasons why the public library news is conspicuous by its absence in this issue of MLN:

1. Practically no news was sent in.
2. Barbara Cox was called away because of the illness of her Father and hasn't been at home to "nag" librarians about what they have done.

The person who does not read has no advantage over the one that can't

Duncan Hines  
Lodging for a Night

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## *School Libraries*

### CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

E. Clyde Williams, Librarian

Any school library is dependent upon four factors, which determine the effectiveness of its services. Each is dependent upon the other — the quarters, the librarian, the materials, and the program. May I use these as a basis for my remarks?

Our library is small but adequate; it serves grades 7-12, with a seating capacity of about 70, and contains approximately 4,000 volumes. It is conveniently located with a reading room, a conference room and a workroom with running water. There is a storeroom close by and adequate equipment at present. As for its attractiveness, I use potted plants, pictures, bulletin boards and posters. It is used as a study hall for students who do not have classes. (I lament this fact in a crowded situation).

Besides the standards for educational and professional training required by accrediting agencies, the personal traits and approach to the work and services of the librarian are of paramount importance. I studied L.S. at the University of Alabama and received my B.L.S. degree at Louisiana State University in 1955.

Membership in professional organizations—local, state and national—and cooperation with other educational organizations have strengthened and broadened our library services through wider interchange of ideas and information. As librarian we are able to work more effectively with teachers and administrators when we meet on a common level to discuss problems concerning the school program. When time permits I report salient information about stu-

dents, their work methods, reading interests, and habits.

The materials of communication comprise the library collection from various forms of printed matter. Our collection meets the need of our curriculum. This has been done by building up the weak spots. I try to select materials that are suited to the capabilities of the student body, so as to instruct, inform, inspire, and entertain. "Dead wood" has no place on library shelves. By weeding often, this unused material on both shelves and files can be replaced by recent information.

Both teachers and students share in the responsibility of selecting materials. And as soon as new materials arrive teachers are notified. And they receive them soon after.

Our book collection is supplemented by the bookmobile monthly from the Capital Area Regional Library. We receive about 200 books each month.

For wider research, our students are permitted to use Mississippi College Library.

Reserves are made accessible immediately upon the request of teachers. They may take instructional materials to the classrooms when needed.

Since our school does not have a guidance counselor, our library renders a valuable service with its occupational information file — recent college catalogs, pamphlets, bulletins, monographs, clippings, etc., kept up-to-date by subscribing to a guidance service. I make displays of this material, which

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may be checked out for short periods.

Our vertical file is most useful. It has to be weeded often in order to give better service to the users. We have a "Mississippi" file also.

There is a professional shelf for teachers consisting of books, periodicals, catalogs of films, filmstrips, etc. The faculty may check out any of this material at any time.

The PTA Shelf was begun by the PTA and we have added some materials. However, it is not used too often by the patrons. Good literature on marriage and family life and the growth and development of children is to be had here.

The library program is one to insure the library and its services that they may be utilized to full capacity. An understanding superintendent — one who is ever mindful of the services of the library and is responsive to the provisions for such services — and the use made by the teachers, help make our library functional. It serves as a laboratory of learning.

By the use of library assistants our library service is improved. They establish better student-library relations and relieve the librarian of many duties — checking rolls, making bulletin boards, typing, collecting fines, etc. The library club is for those who assist in the library. Regular meetings are held weekly to discuss problems. Programs are planned; one meeting each month is devoted to a social.

Students use the library 30 minutes before school, during the regular school day, and after school, when the need arises.

Hobby displays are encouraged by clubs and classes — or any creative work in order to widen the horizon of youth and provide a stimulus to develop new interests with regard to vocations and avocations.

Overdue and lost books are kept to a minimum, as well as fines. One cent a day is the fine if it is paid when the book is turned in. If fine has to be charged it is

doubled. I find this works well. Our fines are used for a contingent fund, rather small though.

Bookmending is done when necessary. Students are usually most cooperative in bringing to our attention loose and torn pages in books and magazines. I might add right here that discipline is not a real problem in the library. I emphasize the fact that it is their library, and to get the most out of it requires all of us pulling together in a spirit of cooperation and consideration. They understand that it is part of their training to employ their time in worthwhile activities.

Library instructions are given to English classes usually at the beginning of the year. Orientation periods are arranged for the different periods for the student body.

Since our elementary school has no central library, our library extends its services to the upper elementary teachers, that they might supplement their materials with what we have that is suitable — periodicals, clippings, pictures, and books. Especially is this useful in units of geography and history.

Our faculty tea, usually before Christmas, promotes better faculty-library relations. The library club and librarian sponsor the tea.

Do I have any readers this far? Don't you agree with me that we are traveling in fast company today, with our young people hurrying through a crowded day, trying to cover all the interesting attractions that invite their time? We have to "hump" it to keep up with this recreational procession that marches somewhat endlessly into the daily lives of our students. What a challenge!

I am sure you will agree with me that to keep up with this fast moving group, we as librarians, must see that our libraries are attractive, and inviting as well as comfortable; that a wide awake enthusiastic, trained librarian is on the job with plenty of suitable materials to hold their interests and meet their needs; and that the library is a useful laboratory in which their questions may be answered and their problems solved.

## A GRAND SLAM FOR SLAM

Alice Hamer, Library Supervisor  
State Department of Education

An outstanding author, Nancy Faulkner, will be the guest speaker at the fifth annual state convention of the Student Library Assistants of Mississippi meeting at Provine High School on Saturday, November 2, according to Anna Margaret Majure, Utica, president of the state group.

Miss Faulkner, writer of teen-age historical novels, will be the keynote speaker at the general session which gets under way at 10 o'clock Saturday morning, and then she will conduct discussion groups on creative writing during the buzz sessions.

Born and bred in Lynchburg, Virginia, she has written five historical novels with settings in her home state. *Undecided Heart*,

another delightful tale of Revolutionary times, was published by Doubleday this summer and is being reviewed favorably throughout the country. It was selected as a Junior Literary Guild Book. Among her other works are *Rebel Drums*, *Pirate Quest*, *Side Saddle for Dandy*, and *The West Is on Your Left Hand*. Two of these, *Pirate Quest* and *Side Saddle for Dandy* were elected as Junior Literary Guild books, also.

A true historian, Miss Faulkner found history dull and uninteresting when she began studying it in school to learn great lists of kings and governors, dates and

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Registration time at the state meeting of the Student Library Assistants of Mississippi.



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battles. When, however, it became a story about exciting things and interesting people, she chose to study history throughout college. She was graduated from Wellsley and took her M.A. in history at Cornell. Then she taught at Sweet Briar College, later going to New York as assistant editor and then editor of *Recreation Magazine*. Now she lives in New York where she is vice-president of Chandler Recordings, producers and distributors of radio programs, recordings, and television programs based on outstanding books for young readers.

"Explore with Books", the theme for Book Week, has been chosen by the student group for the theme of the November 2 meeting which will get underway with registration at 9:30 Saturday morning. Music will be furnished by Provine High School, and following the general session student library assistants will divide into smaller groups to discuss book selection, bookmending, vertical files, reference, library publicity, bulletin boards, posters, new books, making the library more attractive, book week, library clubs, creative writing, and librarianship as a career. A clinic for regional officers will be held at this time also.

Meeting separately from the student assistants groups, the librarians will assemble

for a program under the direction of Callie Chism, Hollandale, vice-president of the Mississippi Association of School Librarians and program chairman of this group.

Following lunch the second general session will feature a skit on the theme of the conference, after which the annual business meeting will be held and officers will be elected.

Library assistants clubs will submit scrapbooks depicting club activities in the annual Donald Dana Scrapbook Contest. Winners of this contest last year were Clarksdale High School and Ellisville Junior High School. This year additional competition is planned. Each club may submit one poster in the poster contest. Scrapbooks must be mailed to the Library Supervisor, State Department of Education, Jackson, by October 1, and posters are to be brought to the Poster Contest desk by 10 a.m. Saturday, November 2.

Officers of the Student Library Assistants of Mississippi are: president, Anna Margaret Majure, Utica High School, Utica; vice-president, Jim Hurdle, Shelby High School, Shelby; secretary, Norma Branch, Brookhaven High School, Brookhaven; treasurer, June Fleming, Forest Hill High School, Rt. 1, Jackson; reporter, Beverly Ingram, Hollandale High School, Hollandale.



Officers of the Student Library Assistants of Mississippi are pictured, left to right, June Fleming of Forest Hill High School, treasurer; Jim Hurdle of Shelby, vice-president; Anna Margaret Majure of Utica, president; Betty Lynn Jones of Hollandale, immediate past president; Norm Branch of Brookhaven, secretary; and Beverly Ingram of Hollandale, reporter.



## ONE, TWO, THREE, GO!

Mrs. W. H. Greer, Librarian  
Utica High School

This school year, 1957-58, is off with a bang! The Mississippi school librarians can make this a memorable year both for the students and for the teachers. This can be attained through a constant endeavor on the parts of the librarian and her assistants to reach more students, to meet more requests, and to keep one step ahead of the teachers' unit planning, the students' interests, and every effort made the preceding year.

There are many ways the librarian can improve herself and the effectiveness of her library and ultimately increase her book circulation.

Browsing seems to be a waste of time, but it is amazing what bits of information students turn up and what interest is created in the classified section.

"Book taster" talks to study groups with a chance to check the books out on the spot has proved very successful for some schools. A well-read student librarian, one who is an interesting speaker, can take five or six related books — on dating "do's and don't's" for a group of girls, on good grooming for a group of boys, on the same subject as the Civil War, or by the same author as Betty Cavanna or Bruce Catton, and give a short paragraph of each book revealing the highlights of interest. This method sparks more keen enthusiasm in books in general than any other procedure.

Book reviews, much longer than "book taster talks," have proved very successful for the library club to increase interest, to give credit in other classes, and to supplement the program material for the club. These books should be the very latest and best. Other clubs like to have the assistant librarians make book reviews related to their interests — football, photography, journalism, homemaking, Hi-y, etc.

It is planning in advance that renders the most effectiveness. Each librarian and assistant librarian can exchange ideas by means of MLN. Ever mindful of improvement and ever alert for change, Mississippi librarians can render their greatest service and make 1957-58 a great year.



MARY EMMA SMITH

### Mary Emma Smith to the Rescue

The School Library Section of MLA and the editor of MLN are delighted to have as reporter for the school library news, Mary Emma Smith, Librarian of the Yazoo City High School. Mrs. Warren Smith is the formal name.

Mary Emma graduated from MSCW cum laude in 1940, with majors in Latin and English and a minor in French. She has had undergraduate library science at Mississippi State and two summers of graduate library science at Louisiana State University.

Until she became librarian of the Yazoo City High School five years ago, Mary Emma taught English for ten years. She served as chairman of the teachers' division of the 5th District librarians for two years. She is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, international honor society for women educators.

Welcome aboard, Mary Emma!

## The Library Services Act And School Libraries

The passage of the Library Services Act has provided federal aid for public library services in the rural areas and represents a major step in educational development for such areas. Various questions have been raised, however, about the relationship of school libraries and public libraries which provide services under the Act.

In an effort to provide guidance in distinguishing between functions of school and public library service, the following statement has been released by the American Association of School Librarians and endorsed by the Board of Directors of the Public Libraries Division, both divisions of the American Library Association:

"Because of the recent passage of the Library Services Act, the Board of Directors of the American Association of School Librarians feels that at this time it is important for school and public librarians to review the distinctive functions of school library service and public library service and to distinguish clearly between them. Therefore, the Board of the American Association of School Librarians wishes to confirm the following statement from **Public Library Service**: 'Public Library Service to schools is not a substitute for a library within the school. The public library activities should be designed to encourage the growth of school libraries.' "

"The Board of the American Association of School Librarians believes that school library services planned, financed and administered by the Board of Education, are a necessary part of a good educational program. The Board believes further that the

development and improvement of such library service to provide for children in school the library resources that are related to the curriculum and needed for an effective school program are primary responsibilities of school administrators and school librarians.

"There are many ways in which school librarians can be of service in the implementation of the Library Services Act: (1) by planning and participating in the extension and improvement for library service in rural areas through public libraries; (2) by recruitment of young people for work in libraries; and (3) by cooperation in the development of plans for demonstrations under the Act.

The Board of the American Association of School Librarians takes this opportunity to point out that the purpose of the Library Service Act is "to promote the further extension by the several states of public library services to rural areas." It believes that if funds provided by this Act were used to finance a library within a school, such use would be contrary to the intent of this legislation, and would deter the development of school libraries within the schools.

"The Board of the American Association of School Librarians wishes also to enlist the understanding and support of public library personnel for the continuing development of school library service which is an integral part of school administration and of instruction. Public library personnel can provide such support through interpretation to the lay public of this statement and the statements herein quoted from **Public Library Service**."

**"FREE AND INEXPENSIVE"  
WORKSHOP**

**Alice Hamer, Library Supervisor  
State Department of Education**

"Free and Inexpensive Materials" — the selection and acquisition, the processing, the use and the contribution of these materials to the school library program was the theme of the annual School Library Workshop held July 28-August 2 at Mississippi Southern College in cooperation with the State Department of Education.

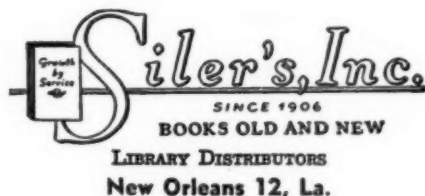
Twenty-five school librarians from every region of Mississippi participated in the conference. Miss Fannie Schmitt, chairman of the Department of Library Science, Florence State College, Florence, Alabama, served as consultant. Her co-directors were Miss Anna Roberts, Mississippi Southern librarian, and Miss Alice Hamer, library supervisor with the State Department of Education. Mrs. Oscar Miller, librarian at Eupora High School who was chosen workshop chairman, and a corps of recorders

working throughout the week, assembled workshop reports which will be edited into a manual or handbook.

"The workshop was a WORKING conference," Mrs. Miller states. "Our study was on a part of library work which is badly in need of careful attention in our school libraries. Hundreds of items — pamphlets, brochures, charts, maps, pictures, clippings, filmstrips, models, etc., could be made usable as library materials to supplement the purchased book collections. During the week, after developing criteria for evaluating these materials, we handled hundreds of examples of free and inexpensive items, selecting, evaluating, and processing them."

Indeed, the workshop smelled like a paste factory one session as librarians sprayed and mounted pictures for picture files. Vertical files were set up, and at the end of the conference each librarian could take away not only what she had learned through study and sharing, but also what she had processed and prepared for her library. Twenty-five

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school libraries will have acquired a nicely organized collection of such materials as a result of the workshop.

The handbook on Free and Inexpensive Materials will be distributed through the State Department of Education later this year in the hope that the workshop will benefit other school libraries in the state.

In connection with the workshop, more than 500 new books — Books on Exhibit — were displayed throughout the workshop. During the summer this exhibit had been available at two other colleges in Mississippi for the summer school students. The exhibit represented new books published during 1956 and 1957 selected by 25 different publishers and were, of course, books suitable for children and young people. At the workshop these books were examined in book sharing buzz sessions, and in a post session of the workshop, book talks were given on several outstanding new books selected by the groups. This "extra" for the workshop was endorsed enthusiastically by the workshop group and an effort will be made to secure the 1957-58 Books on Exhibit next summer.

Participating in the workshop were: Mrs. Tommie Cooksey, Coxburg High School,

Lexington; Mrs. Alice Cox, Clarke College, Newton; Leslie W. Dodson, Aberdeen High School, Aberdeen; Mrs. Bessie Fike, Agricola High School, Agricola; Mrs. Vera G. Fountain, Forest High School, Forest; Mrs. Rosa O. Gatewood, Linn High School, Doddsville; Mrs. R. E. L. Gentry, Collins High School, Collins; Sarah Jensen, Woodville High School, Woodville; Mrs. Troy Lee, Raleigh High School, Raleigh; Mrs. S. C. Miller, Lucedale High School, Lucedale; Joel W. McCaa, Clara High School, Clara; Mrs. Oscar Miller, Eupora High School, Eupora; Miss Neva Morris, Improve High School, Columbia; Mrs. Bess R. Ormond, Linn High School, Doddsville; Evelyn W. Oswalt, Copiah-Lincoln Jr. College, Wesson; Mrs. Hazel Y. Polk, Forest Hill School, Jackson; Mrs. R. C. Rounsville, Leakesville High School, Leakesville; Mrs. Mary Avis Settle, Biggersville High School, Corinth; Mrs. Esco Smith, Lyman High School, Lyman; Mrs. M. A. Snowden, Lucedale High Schools, Lucedale; Mrs. J. L. Tate, Tremont High School, Tremont; Mrs. Fred W. Thomas, Magnolia High School, Magnolia; Ada Walker, New Zion High School, Tylertown; Mrs. Mary F. Wardlaw, Fernwood Schools, Fernwood; Mrs. Zetha Wright, Walnut Grove Schools, Walnut Grove.

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## *Special Libraries*

### THE SPECIALITY OF THE HOUSE

Mrs. Ruth D. Scharr, Base Librarian  
Keesler Air Force Base

What are special libraries? What makes them special? They have been defined as those libraries which are built around special subjects, and which, for that reason, serve a limited clientele. Their function is to put knowledge to work and to develop broader appreciation and understanding of the special field served. In Mississippi, these special libraries fall into three related groups: (1) historical, museum type libraries; (2) the legal, medical, technical group; and (3) the libraries for the military, both those on active duty and the veterans. The third group is "special", I presume, because it is a hybrid, a combination of more than one kind of library. But more of that later.

Although a special librarian myself, I have never been quite sure how the other half lived, so I wrote to inquire. Answers

were detailed and filled with enthusiasm. Everyone seemed to feel his library was sort of "special" in more ways than one, and in that respect special librarians are no different from any others, are they?

But let me tell you about us. I'll begin with the first group listed above, the historical, museum type libraries. Mississippi can boast of two. The State of Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, and the Lauren Rogers Library and Museum of Art, Laurel. Both are reference libraries, loaning books only on an inter-library loan, and differ from the rest of us in that they are headed by directors.

The Lauren Rogers Library and Museum of Art was founded in 1922 by Lauren Chase  
(Next Page)

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(From Page 105)

Eastman in memory of his grandson, Lauren Eastman Rogers, and is under the direction of Miss Nell Davis, Librarian-Director. Since the first opening of its doors, it has offered to the people of Laurel and its environs and to visitors from near and far a rare opportunity to enjoy the world of art and literature. It is a reference library of more than 13,500 volumes, with special emphasis placed on the art collection, the genealogical collection, and Mississippiana. An interesting piece of incunabula is a page from the Gutenberg Bible. Present in this special library are architectural beauty and simplicity; craftsmanship in plaster, metal and wood; masterpieces of painting and sculpture; outstanding examples of artistry in kindred fields; rare and beautiful, comprehensive and authoritative volumes for general or reference reading; and current literature in books and periodicals.

Keeping pace with the times and maintaining the library's traditional quality, the original Art Gallery has recently been converted into a Reading Room designed both for comfort and pleasure. Here the Library's excellent assortment of magazines and newspapers attracts those readers who have only a few minutes to browse, as well as those who come seeking information on special subjects. And like other up-to-date libraries, this library has additional programs planned. Monthly art exhibits are held, and art classes are conducted there summer and winter for both adults and children. Thus their "outside attractions" are tied in with their specialty. But don't mistake what I have said. This library, housed under the same roof as the museum and having a large art collection, is not primarily an art library. It is a reference library, used by school children, college students, researchers in genealogy, club women working up programs, and visitors browsing. It is indeed a busy place.

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Reading Room, showing portrait of Lauren Rogers on left wall



The Basket Room, looking into the Indian Room, is one of the spots of interest at the Lauren Rogers Library.



(From Page 107)

Similarly the Department of Archives and History in Jackson is the source to which researchers of all ages go for information on Mississippi and its people. The Department is under the direction of Miss Charlotte Capers, and the position of Department Librarian was filled on April first of this year by Mrs. Patti Black. Of the functions and facilities of her library Mrs. Black has written a most interesting account:

"On February 28, 1902, a law was passed by the legislature of Mississippi creating the State Department of Archives and History, the second department of its kind in the United States. Consisting of the Hall of Fame, the Mississippi State Museum, the Division of Archives, and the Library, the department today is one of the nation's leading historical agencies. The holdings of the department include provincial, territorial and state archives of Mississippi; more than 700,000 Mississippi newspapers, from 1805 to the present, manuscript and microfilm copies of Mississippi Census records, from the Spanish census of 1792 through the census of 1880, Confederate military records of approximately 1,000,000 official and private manuscripts; and oil paintings valued at \$500,000. The library contains over 16,000 cataloged books and pamphlets.

"A rich storehouse of information on the state and its people, the Library of the department is categorized as a special library because of its concentrated range and ob-

jectives. It is an historical and genealogical reference library whose purposes are to collect and catalog material written in Mississippi, written by Mississippians, and material bearing upon the history of the state from the earliest times; to make this material available for public use; and to act as a clearing house for information on all phases of Mississippi's colorful history. Although books are not allowed to circulate outside the library, except through library loan, reference service is also offered through the mail.

"In a typical week during April, the library furnished information to ladies interested in genealogy, gathered material on the secession talks of 1850 for a college student, provided information on Mississippi authors, located the flag of the 16th Mississippi regiment of the Confederate army for a school boy, helped an oil scout trace Choctaw land claims, supplied a lawyer with the Mississippi laws of 1848, and furnished a gentleman with the Ripley newspaper of 1837 . . .

"The library is used freely by school children and laymen, as well as by scholars and researchers, all interested in the dramatic and colorful story that is Mississippi's history."

This is the story of the first group of Mississippi's Special Libraries. We sincerely hope you have found it as enlightening as we have and that you've enjoyed it so much you'll be watching for the second installment in the next issue.

Special librarians will have as their speaker on Saturday at MLA Miss Helen E. Loftus, Supervisor of Library Business Service, Eli Lilly & Co. of Indianapolis. The meeting will be held from 11:00 to 1:00. Visitors are welcome!





This is a corner of the Search Room, where all research is done: books, newspapers, and microfilms are all used here. We have closed stacks and so bring to this room any material that the patron wants. Our card catalog and biographical index guide the patrons to their material.

The portraits that you see hanging on the wall are part of the collection of twelve valuable photographs by Matthew Brady, the famous Civil War photographer. They are all of prominent Mississippians made in Washington, D. C. right after the Civil War.



**THE HALL OF FAME** is a collection of oil paintings, portraits of men who have been prominent in the development of the State.

It is housed in the War Memorial Building, where the library is, rather than in the New Capitol with our museum. Both the museum and the Hall of Fame will be moved to the Old Capitol when it is restored as a historical site.



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MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY NEWS

## What Is Adult Education?

*"We can never become wise enough to say 'Now I can stop learning of thinking'."*

*—Mortimer J. Adler*

Adult education means many things to many people. But perhaps a definition acceptable to all is one that would define it as a means of helping adults solve their problems. Whether those problems involve doing a job better, using leisure time well, or comprehending the human situation of the world in which we live, the public library has a primary contribution to make to the solution of adult problems.

There is one category of adults in Mississippi who will soon have an educational opportunity aimed toward job improvement. That group is the library trustees who will attend the Trustees Section meeting on October 25 during the convention of the Mississippi Library Association. Last year a start was made toward strengthening this annual event. The program this year will get close to the needs of trustees as they see them. A real effort has been made to get the thinking of the individual trustee on the aspect of his job about which he needs most to talk.

The "Library Team in Action" will be the emphasis of a panel discussion at the luncheon. Who is the library team? The librarian and his trustees. The quality of library service to the community depends upon how well this team understands the function of each member, and how well the team works together to fulfill these functions.

The two hour discussion and reporting session following the luncheon will allow for full participation. Dr. T. Russell Nunan, Acting Chairman of the Trustees Section, says, "It is a challenge to me personally to assume responsibility for a venture that has within it such great possibility as this one has for raising the level and quality of library service in Mississippi."

• • • • •

Adult Education does not only concern itself with content, but also with method. The State Adult Education Coordinating

(Next Page)

(From Page 111)

Committee, on which librarians serve, has scheduled its second annual meeting for December 3 at the Edwards Hotel in Jackson. The program last year was built around the "Concerns of Adult Education in Mississippi." It was broad in scope and dealt with goals, the need for focus, the changing world we live in, what Mississippians want, and the problems on which all those in adult education could join hands.

This year the program will focus on a study of techniques that are effective in the education of adults. Mr. E. P. Yerby, Chairman of the Program Committee, says, "The planning committee has outlined a program which will provide study of varied techniques used by those in adult education. . . .group discussions, symposiums, role playing, brainstorming and others will be demonstrated."

Knowing how to impart knowledge has always been a concern of education. To motivate adults who are laboring under the illusion that education was completed with formal schooling to keep on learning calls for methods quite different from those used in the classroom where the learner is captive. Perhaps librarians and trustees who have concern for the library's educational responsibility for its out-of-formal-school population will find some answers at this workshop.

There are young adults too, those who still have formal education ahead, but who face the problem of using summer leisure time well. One group of these "middle-size" adults, motivated by a desire to make the summer vacation count culturally, turned to the library for help. This group was in Gulfport and Librarian Maria Person was equal to the challenge. A discussion group was organized. The group itself selected the topics for discussion — topics that ran all the way from "Why isn't poetry enjoyed more?" to "Intellectual Movements in

World War II." To help with the reading the librarian set up a special reference shelf with selected materials on the topics to be discussed.

How did it turn out? Let Miss Person tell it. "They aimed a little too high both in number of meetings and in subjects. But it was their group. They learned from experience that they needed to do more reading; they learned that leadership is a responsibility (leaders were selected from their own group after the first session). I can't say that it was a wholly successful undertaking. . . .but several evenings I have felt that every bit of thought and time put into it was more than rewarding. The value as I see it has been the informal contact with the library. They are all students headed for college this fall. In talking with them before or after the meeting, I've been able to suggest things they may not have read during their high school courses. The discussion on poetry was surprisingly good. One or another checked out anthologies afterwards to get acquainted with a poet another participant knew something about. . . .At a discussion on *Long Day's Journey into the Night* one boy had not even read the play but got so interested in the discussion of O'Neill that he got up and went to the shelf in the middle of the discussion for O'Neill's collected plays. He wanted to see what the guy was all about. Since that meeting he has read eight or ten plays. I believe the summer has been as much benefit to me as to the young people because it has given me the opportunity of knowing some of the finest of Gulfport's youth." This was indeed a venture in adult education with a youthful accent.

\*\*\*\*\*

"What is the real end of learning?" asks Mortimer J. Adler. He answers his own question by saying, "It is wisdom. . . .wisdom is hard to come by and slowly won. That is one reason for the interminability of adult education."

## *Inside U. S. A.*

### NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

March 16-22, 1958

National Library Week is being organized and sponsored by the National Book Committee, in cooperation with the American Library Association. The National Book Committee is a non-profit organization formed to promote the wider and wiser use of books.

Library Week is the first united drive of the communications industry to increase the number of readers in America and to increase reading among confirmed readers. It will be supported by newspaper, magazine and book publishers, their printers and suppliers.

Cooperating in this program, in addition to ALA, will be librarians and friends of libraries throughout the country.

#### Why a National Library Week

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Because | The habit of reading is not keeping pace with increased education, leisure time or high disposable income.  |
| Because | 60% of American adults did not read a book, other than the Bible, during 1955.  |
| Because | Half of the adults in this country live within a mile of a public library — but only one fifth of them visit it.  |
| Because | New standards of public library service have just been issued by the American Library Association; they need community attention and acceptance.                                      |
| Because | Recruiting trained personnel is a major problem for all libraries; more efforts are needed to attract young people to the profession. The shortage is handicapping library expansion. |
| Because | Soaring enrollments mean that school and college library facilities must be expanded.   |

#### What Can A National Library Week Do?

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Increase | Support for libraries from the highest levels of leadership in economic, professional and cultural life of the country.                           |
| Expose   | The need for the extension and improvement of school and public library services.   |
| Offer    | Opportunities for librarians to work more closely with newspaper, magazine and advertising executives in broadening the use of printed materials. |
| Attract  | Wider public attention to library services through features in national mass media.   |
| Promote  | Prestige for reading itself. National Library Week will show the vital role libraries can play in:  |

The fun of reading aloud in the family

The rewards of reading as a leisure-time activity

The contribution of reading to career advancement

Publicity and promotion of library facilities during the Week will enhance the importance of all kinds of libraries to the community.

(Next Page)

(From Page 113)

#### How Will Mississippi Cooperate?

- By offering Libraries as the rallying points for community attention and action. The foundation of the campaign will be based on the network of libraries that spans the state.
- By lending Facilities of the library which may be useful to the Library Week Committee in conducting the campaign.
- By suggesting Community leaders to be included on Library Week committees.
- By persuading Press, radio and television representatives in your community to provide time and space to Library Week events.

The ALA National Library Week committee in Mississippi is composed of Jeanne Broach, Chairman; Mrs. Lura G. Currier, representing the state agency; Lucile Miller, public librarian; Alice Hamer for school libraries; Hallie Eggleston, college librarian; and Mary Love, ex-officio.

A National Library Week Committee consisting of leading citizens from education, business, government, civic activities and professions will be announced later.

There will be a special program on National Library Week at the MLA Convention on Friday morning. You should be there!

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The advertisement includes a photograph of the Hotel Edwards building at the bottom, showing its entrance and a vintage car parked in front. The sign is set against a background of stylized, dark, leaf-like shapes.

### Filmstrip On Public Libraries

With the release in July of its new filmstrip — **YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY — ISLAND OR PENINSULA\*** — the American Library Association offers a complete line of materials designed to promote the new public library standards in all aspects, and at all levels of understanding.

The new filmstrip was prepared by a committee of the Public Libraries Division of A. L. A. Using original full-color artwork, it provides a visual presentation of the broad concepts and basic library standards embodied in A. L. A.'s 1956 publication, **Public Library Service**. Like the book, the filmstrip emphasizes both the actual services performed by American public libraries, and the potential for wider and more efficient service by individual libraries integrated with larger units or library systems.

Included with the filmstrip are a recorded commentary and a mimeographed script — both designed to facilitate discussion and understanding of the standards.

The four previous promotional items on the standards were made available this past spring and have already been widely distributed: a discussion manual; a 16-page abridgement of the book, **A plan for Better Public Library Service**; a leaflet, **How About Your Public Library**; and a reprint of Gerald W. Johnson's significant foreword to the book, **The Role of the Public Library**.

**\*Your Public Library — Island or Peninsula?** 35-frame color filmstrip, 35mm, with recorded script on 33½ rpm disc and mimeographed script. American Library Association. 1957. \$13.00

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#### **LAND OR PENINSULA\* — the American**

The Nebraska Public Library Commission and the Wisconsin Free Library Commission are the first state library agencies to receive grants under the 1957-59 program of the American Library Association's Library-Community Project. The Program is made possible by a second grant of \$200,000 to ALA from the Fund for Adult Education, which has extended the Project until August 31, 1959.

#### **Book Bait**

Detailed notes on adult books popular with young people have been compiled by The Association of Young People's Librarians and published by the American Library Association in a paper back called **Book Bait**. Suggestions for using the list are included.

Copies of **Book Bait** are available from the Library Commission upon request.

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#### **PLD Has New Executive Secretary**

Eleanor A. Ferguson, Director of the Middletown, Connecticut, Library Service Center, has been appointed Executive Secretary of the Public Libraries Division of the American Library Association, it has been announced by ALA Executive Secretary David H. Clift. The appointment was effective on September 1.

PLD's new executive secretary has had a varied background in public library work. She has been active in state library associations as well as in ALA.

Mrs. Dorothy K. Smith, who has served as PLD Interim Executive Secretary during the last year, will assist Miss Ferguson and be chiefly responsible for the Division's publications program.

#### **To Be a Librarian**

ALA has developed a new recruiting pamphlet *To Be a Librarian*, designed to be used in a person-to-person recruiting program in which participants are asked to give a copy of the pamphlet to the "most likely prospect you know and tell the prospect yourself about the challenges and advantages of librarianship as a career."

Limited distribution of the pamphlet will be made to librarians, library groups, and personnel and guidance associations. Mass distribution for career days and casual inquirers will not be made.

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